## Extract from Hansard

[COUNCIL — Tuesday, 20 June 2023] p3019b-3020a Hon Dr Brian Walker

## CORONAVIRUS — VACCINATION

Statement

HON DR BRIAN WALKER (East Metropolitan) [9.54 pm]: I do not think members would be surprised that I am controversial at times. I am going to read out a statement that was created today on behalf of the family of Shane Warne. Members would also be aware of my passion for having a scientific focus. Facts are important to me and I do not suffer fools gladly. I want an open-minded assessment of things. I make up my own mind about things. I think a failure to have an open mind dooms science to be second rate. The foundation of all science is the ability to ask questions. Members all know that another one of my passions is that I regard the status quo as a cause of the problem because it perpetuates mediocrity and rejects innovation. I have a passion for truth, facts and science. I would, however, be embarrassed to share a platform with those political idiots in the USA regarding COVID. I am not a fan of conspiracy theories. I am vaccinated, for a number of purposes, including COVID-19. In fact, on my third vaccination, I got myocarditis. Despite that, I had a booster on top of that. The potential was that before the booster, I could get more myocarditis and maybe even put my life at risk. I still went ahead. Why? It is because I trusted the science. No-one can say that I am an anti-vaxxer. That, by the way, was a very unhelpful narrative. I would like very much to know more about what is going on. Throughout the pandemic, as members have probably heard before, I even put my own life on the line at that time when there was a 10 per cent fatality rate in China, and in our local hospital in Kununoppin the question was put: "What are we going to do if you get sick, doctor?" You rock up there and do your job. If I get sick, the young ones will get the ventilator, not me. This is what health practitioners do. They put themselves last. They go into the position and serve the people at whatever risk to themselves. That is why I have been involved a number of times in taking knives and loaded weapons off patients and have been exposed to risks. That is what we do. I would expect no less from my healthcare workers.

Members can imagine my concern when I wondered about the response to the COVID vaccinations that has been highjacked by vested interests that caused me to reflect on the science and also my rising anger because I may have put myself at risk and offered to sacrifice myself for the wellbeing of the community for no good purpose, and that makes me angry. My colleagues have also sacrificed themselves for the wellbeing of the community. I acknowledge and respect the sacrifice of my honourable colleagues who have been sanctioned by the medical board, the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency, for the sin of questioning the established science. They paid with the loss of their profession, a loss of income and the loss of status. A colleague of mine has not worked for three years because he refused to abide by what he thought was faulty science. My colleagues worked long and hard to achieve their positions. The paramount principle is to serve truth and science. Respect and greetings to them all, one and all.

Most members are aware that what I say now could make people take me to task—I welcome that—and abuse me and describe me in the most unflattering terms. I am not going to like that, but I will stand and take it because I think some important things have to be said. I am going to speak now on behalf of, and in support of, the family of Shane Warne. He is a hero of mine. I met him in Hong Kong when he was with the Hong Kong International Cricket Sixes. His personality was like a shining light. He had immense personality. What follows is going to be a carefully worded statement. I will read it into *Hansard*. I hope that members will look at this very carefully and consider my words carefully and reflect on the potential for new insights into what has been regarded as the established science. I think this must be challenged. I absolutely acknowledge the possibility that this so-called established science is in fact accurate. It might yet be proven that the messenger ribonucleic acid vaccines are in fact accurate and that it might yet be proven that mRNA is indeed the magic bullet that we sought. I believe this and I treated myself as such. I also believe that the potential adverse effects may truly be minimal. Can we be sure of that? Nevertheless, figures have been discovered that now cast serious doubt on that narrative and I have to ask myself: Should I investigate these more closely? Could I invite members to investigate these more closely?

We have closely guarded secrets. The narrative is unquestionable. Opposing views are shouted down. I ask: Can I trust government? Well, can we trust government? The only answer, I think, is no. Can we trust a politician? As a politician, who trusts me? Because I am a politician—we all know this problem—people think we are not going to talk the truth. Facts can be revealed only once the outcomes have been shown. I talk to my patients and they say, "What is the safety? What is the real gen?" I say, "I do not know. I only got part of the story. In five years, looking back, we can say what has actually gone on, but right now I do not know. Apparently it is okay. Give it a shot." This means by definition that we are the guinea pigs. This is not the normal process. We are the guinea pigs and I find that completely unacceptable. At least to my patients I will say that. I say this to members as well. We need the courage to stand up and say that this is the truth. We are guinea pigs.

I was shocked to find out the Therapeutic Goods Administration is 96 per cent owned by pharma companies. How can we trust it? It casts into doubt every decision it has made. Not only is trusting a politician bad for our health, but also trusting the TGA might be bad for our health. We are required as doctors to follow what the government says; we are now required to parrot what the government says to keep the public safe, which means people are

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now unable to trust doctors. Do not trust doctors, because they are simply parroting what the government tells them to say. I will read this statement and hope it finds in members an open mind. Here we go. It is in the memory of Shane Warne by the way.

In the interest of fostering robust academic discourse and transparency, it is crucial to scrutinise the methodologies employed in the collection and interpretation of data related to COVID-19 and its associated vaccinations. There is an increasing need to address potential biases and ensure the quality of the data being disseminated so as to safeguard public trust and the integrity of scientific research. It has come to my attention that my trust in research has been misplaced and this rouses my anger, as all of my life I have relied on trusting the science, and that is now being called into doubt.

The sudden passing of Australian cricket legend Shane Warne underscores the urgency of comprehensive investigations into the health events leading to unexpected fatalities. As we honour his enduring legacy, let us all emulate his relentless pursuit of excellence by seeking unambiguous answers, ensuring that we honour the truth with the same zeal Warne had for wickets and runs. Credible medical opinion suggests a link between his vaccination and his sudden death, and as someone who was privileged to have met this great man, I cannot rest until this question is definitively answered.

Although the rollout of mRNA vaccines has reportedly played a role in managing the severity of COVID-19 infections and reducing death rates, it is essential to delve deeper into potential adverse effects and unreported incidents. The narrative that the vaccine completely halted transmission and prevented infection is false, and the question of further inaccurate or misleading information requires critical reassessment. As we celebrate the successes of this medical advancement, we must remain steadfast in our commitment to uncovering the full scope of its impact on public health. Warnie would expect no less.